

Gay, Frank B.

1914-1915

[Wadsworth Athenaeum  
+ Morgan Memorial,  
Hartford, CT]

The Wadsworth Atheneum &  
Morgan Memorial

Hartford, Ct., Mch. 30, '14  
To the Secretary or Curator  
American Numismatic Society  
New York City

Dear sir:

I propose to visit your  
Society on Wednesday morning  
next, and am very desirous  
of learning a few things if  
possible. We have to arrange  
here a collection of war  
decorations and medals, and  
Mr. Samuel P. Avery, a Trustee  
here and a member of your  
Society, has suggested that  
perhaps you will be so good

as this to show me certain  
ways of doing things, and  
answer a few questions  
Mr. Avery permits me to  
use his name, and I  
write to beg a little of  
your time & consideration.

Very truly yours

Frank B. Fay

P. S. Do not reply to me here, as  
I am leaving town for a day or two.  
Director.

WADSWORTH ATHENEUM  
MORGAN MEMORIAL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Dec. 24, '14

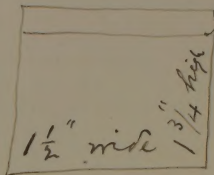
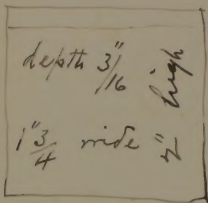
B. L. Belden, Esq.

Secy Am. Numismatic Socy  
New York City

My dear Mr. Belden:

When I had that  
delightful morning with you  
last Spring, and we talked over  
the collection of the late J.  
Coolidge Hills, you kindly  
offered to advise me further  
in the matter. Now here is a  
little thing that perhaps you  
will help me with.

Where do you get those small



Block of  
wood, covered  
with paper  
for label

paper boxes or containers in which to show medals singly? Are they made in standard sizes? What do they cost per hundred or thousand?

Mr. Hills had some of these boxes; (sizes given opposite). These are to be put under glass in cases, of course.

Any information you may give will be most thankfully received.

Hoping to see you here sometime, I am

Sincerely yours  
Frank B. Fay

December 30th, 1914..

Mr..Frank B. Gay,,

Wadsworth Athenaeum,,

Hartford, Conn..

My dear Mr..Gay:-

Your letter of December 24th would have been answered sooner, had I not been waiting until I could give you just the information that you desired. I find, however, that it will be several days before I can do so, for the reason that we have ordered a lot of these boxes of various sizes from a new concern, and as I have not yet seen any of the boxes, I do not know whether they will come up to the standard, or not.. I hope within the course of a few days to be able to answer your question fully, and to send you some samples of the boxes we use.

I have been hoping for sometime that I would be able to get over to Hartford, and look over the Hill Collection as you have it arranged, but I have not managed it so far. Mr. Godard, of the State Library, was in New York awhile ago, and he informed me that the collection was displayed in a very attractive way. Did you get the collection of coins also, or is that matter still hanging fire ?

With kind regards, and the compliments of the season, I am,

Very truly yours,,



Morgan Memorial

Hartford, Conn., Jan. 26, '18

Mr. Bauman L. Belden;

Secretary Am. Numismatic Society;

New York City.

My dear Mr. Belden:

Thank you very much for the trouble you took in sending those coin boxes. I am a little surprised at the price; I supposed it would be higher per thousand.

With a due acknowledgment to you, I showed them to our Trustees at a meeting a few days ago. We have not decided yet whether or not



to get them, but think I will  
try some later.

I wish there was a way to get  
labels at a smaller cost in  
price + room; yes, & labor.  
We are amateurs all right, but  
not "wealthy amateurs".

I see you are likely to have  
another great addition to  
your center of art & learning  
at 156 street. Congratulations,  
also great Thankfulness  
to your patron.

With kindest regards, I am  
Very sincerely yours  
Frank B. Gay

January 8th, 1916.

Mr. Frank B. Gay,  
Wadsworth Athenaeum,  
Hartford, Conn..

My dear Mr. Gay:-

I enclose herewith three coin boxes.. These were made by Henry Cohen, 109 Duane Street, New York. The size marked No. 1 cost \$12.50 per thousand, No. 2, \$16.00 per thousand, and No. 3 \$15.00 per thousand.

We have heretofore had these boxes made by the Whitehead & Hoag Company, Newark, New Jersey.. This is the first lot that we have ordered from Henry Cohen. His price on Nos. 1 and 3 is lower than that of the Whitehead & Hoag for the same size boxes, and I think that the quality is about the same. These boxes, of course, can be made any size desired, and the cost would probably be about the same. If ordered in small lots, they might charge a little more. Our order was for three thousand No. 1, one thousand No. 2, and five hundred of No. 3.

I hope this information will be of some use, and if I can help you in any other way at any time I will be glad to do so..

With kind regards, believe me,.

Very sincerely yours,.

May 1st, 1915.

Mr. Frank B. Gay, Director,  
The Wadsworth Athenaeum,  
Hartford, Connecticut.

My dear Mr. Gay:-

Can you tell me if the Mills' collection contains a specimen of the  
Beauregard medal for the Battle of Bull Run?

This is a small silver medal, 19 mm. in diameter, bearing a profile  
head of Beauregard, facing left, with the legend G. T. BEAUREGARD. MG.  
GEN. C.S.A. Rev. in a wreath of laurel BRANFORD. 1 JULY. 1861.

It is possible that this medal may have been made in copper as well  
as in silver. I do not remember whether I saw it in Mr. Mills' collec-  
tion or not. It is described on page 95 of the second volume of the  
American Journal of Numismatics.

If you have this medal, would it be possible for me to get a photo-  
graph of it, the photograph to be the exact size of the medal and to  
show both sides? I presume your rules would not allow the medal to be  
loaned.

I am writing up the Confederate medals, and am anxious to see one  
of these, and to obtain a photograph of it for illustration. I have  
been hoping that I could arrange to get over to Hartford and spend a day  
looking over the Mills' collection, but have not, as yet, had time to do  
it, though I will try before very long. In the meantime I would be very

please to know if you have the model, and if a photograph can be taken,  
and at what cost.

With kind regards, believe me,

Very truly yours,

May 5th, 1915

WADSWORTH ATHENEUM  
MORGAN MEMORIAL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Mr. B. L. Belden

Soc'y Am. Numismatic Socy

New York City:

My dear Mr. Belden:

In reply to your inquiry regarding the Beauregard medal, I am sorry to say that I can't find that Mr. J. C. Hills had one. We have gone carefully thro. the cases, and what notes we can, but fail to find anything about it. I judge it must be very rare if your collection + Hills's

fails to show it.

I find it is not in the Jos. C. Mitchelson collection at the State Library. I can not give you any further help. Wish I could.

I still live in hope (also in dread) of your august presence here at some not too far future.

By the way, how many iron crosses of the present war have you. Will they cost much do you think?

With kind regards & many thanks, I am  
Very truly yours

Frank B. Fay



May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1914.

Mr. Frank B. Gay,

Worcester Athenaeum,

Hartford, Conn.

My dear Mr. Gay:-

Many thanks for your letter of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, which had just been received. I am sorry to hear that the Desargues medal is not in the Mills collection. He had so many things of that kind that I was in hopes that he would have it. I found an illustration of it in the catalogue of the Pettis sale (January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 1892) where a specimen brought \$5.25, but the illustration will not be very easy to copy, and only gives one side. It is a little medal only 18 mm. in diameter.

I am hoping to get over to Hartford sometime before long. I am very anxious to spend a day or two going over the Mills collection.

I have not as yet been able to secure any Iron Crosses of the present war. We have made inquiries of several foreign dealers, and I suppose something will materialize in the course of time. I have not the faintest idea what they will cost, though I presume that while the war is in progress they will be rather expensive, and as great quantities of them have been given out they will probably be hard to get in the course of a few years. Of the older



Iron Crosses you have more than we have.

We have secured a number of interesting American war medals lately. I wish Mr. Mills was alive, and could see them as they would interest him greatly.

With kind regards, and thanking you for the trouble you have taken, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

May 14th, 1918.

Mr. Frank P. Day,  
Wadsworth Atheneum,  
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Mr. Day:-

I am anxious to look through the Hill Collection as I am writing a couple of articles on war models, and think I can probably obtain some needed information from some of the specimens.

I am planning, therefore, to run over to Hartford either Monday or Tuesday of next week, provided, of course, that you will be there, and that it will be convenient to let me look over the models. Might I ask you to drop me a line so that I will get it not later than Saturday.

With kind regards, and hoping to have the pleasure of seeing you next week, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

658 Farmington Ave

Hartford, Conn. 12/5/15

My dear Mr. Belden:

Your letter  
of this morning was  
most welcome. For a  
year or more, I've been  
waiting in the hope  
that something would  
bring you to Hart-  
ford & at last the  
hope is to be realized  
of course I shall be

be at the Athenaeum, &  
it will make no dif-  
ference which or how  
many days you come.  
You can handle & com-  
pare anything you  
like.

Till then, believe me

Sincerely yours

Frank B. Gay

Hartford, Conn

June the Seventeenth, 1915

My dear Mr. Belden:

Your letter at hand and the contents noted with much pleasure.

Of course I want you to come, when convenient to you. Monday & Tuesday will suit as well as any time, tho. Tuesday will find me called off more or less. If the last of the week would suit you as well

let me know; but come  
when you can

The Coolidge Hills library  
came a day or two ago  
and we are trying to  
find vol. II's to go with  
vol. I's of lots of things.

Hope to have it straightened  
out before you get here.

Very sincerely yours

Frank B. Fay

June 18th, 1915.

Mr. Frank B. Gay,

Wadsworth Athenaeum,

Hartford.

My dear Mr. Gay:-

Your letter of June 17th has just been received. It looks as though the first part of next week would be the only time that I could get away before the latter part of the summer, as I have to be in New York on the 24th, and from that time on I will be busy getting things in shape to get away for a few weeks vacation about the first of July. I can not tell as yet whether I will get over Monday or Tuesday. I will come Monday if possible, but if I find that I have to be in New York on Monday, I will show up on Tuesday without fail.

With kind regards, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,



# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM



Form 1864

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, VICE-PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

BELVIDERE BROOKS, VICE-PRESIDENT

RECEIVED AT

70 NY KC 13

HD HARTFORD CONN 121PM JUNE 18 1915

B L BELDEN SECY

AMN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

BROADWAY AND 156 ST NY.

CAN YOU POSTPONE VISIT ONE WEEK IMPORTANT MATTER WILL SERIOUSLY  
INTERFERE NEXT WEEK

FRANK B GAY

153PM XX

Will postpone visit  
have written,

B. H. H. H.

July 17th, 1915.

Mr. Frank B. Gay,

Westworth Athenaeum,

Hartford, Conn.

My dear Mr. Gay:-

Many thanks for the cheque, which would have been acknowledged sooner but I was away when it was received. I returned to the city to-day for two or three days, and expect to get away for the remainder of my vacation about the middle of next week.

I will be here in all probability all through August, and in September or possibly October I can spare you a week as was suggested when I last saw you, if you so desire.

With kind regards, believe me,

Most cordially yours,

August 22th, 1915.

Mr. Frank B. Gay,  
Wadsworth Athenaeum,  
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Mr. Gay:-

Mr. Mills had in some publication, other than Lessing's Field Book of the Civil War, quite an account of the Kearny cross including an illustration, I mean the bronze cross that was given to the common soldier, not the gold one that the officers had made for themselves.

Should you have happened to run across this, would it be too much trouble to inform me if it gives any information as to just how, or when, these crosses were distributed to the soldiers.

With kindest regards, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

October 2th, 1915.

Mr. Frank B. Gay,

Windsor's Athenaeum,

Hartford, Conn.

My dear Mr. Gay:-

I am now having the various American War Medals photographed to illustrate my article on that subject, and there is one in the Mills' Collection of which I am very anxious to obtain a plate. It is the Naval Good Conduct Medal engraved on the watch No. 1398, Thomas Miller, U. S. S. Vermont, with four bars, Ticonderoga, Sontara, Constitution and Jamestown. There is also one of the Sampson Medals for the West Indies Campaign, 1898, with three bars, Casilan, Cienfuegos, U. S. S. Yankee. Would it be possible for me to borrow these two medals to have them photographed by our photographer, or if you would prefer, could you have them photographed for me at the Society's expense of course, the photographs to be the exact size of the original? Of the Naval Good Conduct Medal I want a plate of both the obverse and the reverse, and of the Sampson Medal, of the obverse only.

Trusting that everything is flourishing with you, and with kindest regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

22d  
+  
postage

Wadsworth Athenaeum

Hartford, Conn., Oct. 9th '15

My dear Mr. Belden:

I am sending you to-day (or Monday) if I get a chance to put 'em up, the two medals you ask for. Your man will get, probably, a more satisfactory photo. than I. Besides, I haven't time to bother with the photographer.

It gives me a lot of satisfaction, to have you send out into the country to get things.

Hope you are well, enjoying this life, & that before many moons, I shall have the pleasure of seeing you again.

Sincerely yours

Frank B. Gay

Sent by registered mail  
to-day.

October 11th, 1915.

Mr. Frank B. Gay,  
Wadsworth Athenaeum,  
Hartford, Conn.

My dear Mr. Gay:-

Many thanks for your letter of October 9th and the two medals which came to hand this morning. I have had the medals photographed, but want to hold on to them for a couple of days until I get the prints to be sure that they come out all right.

I have been looking carefully at the print that was made in Hartford of the Specially Meritorious Service Medal for the West Indies Campaign, 1898, and I find that on comparison with the prints that our man here makes this is not as clear as it should be. I wonder if it would be asking too much to ask you to let us have this medal also to photograph. You will no doubt remember it is the shape of a bronze cross with an anchor in the centre, and on the back is engraved LOUIS QUENTIN, LANDSMAN, and a whole lot about saving life after the Battle of Santiago, July 3, 1898.

With kindest regards, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,



# REGISTRY RETURN RECEIPT.

Form 1548.

12464

Received from the postmaster registered article, the original number of which appears on the reverse side of this card.

Date of delivery *Oct. 20* 191*5*

(To be filled in by person signing receipt.)

When delivery is made to an agent of the addressee, both addressee's name and agent's signature must appear in this receipt.

*F. B. Gay*

(Signature of name of addressee.)

*Frank B. Gay*

(Signature of addressee's agent.)

Registered matter, the delivery of which has not been restricted by the sender or the addressee, is deliverable to any responsible person who customarily receives the ordinary mail of the addressee. (See sec. 935, P. L. and R.)

When the above receipt has been properly signed, it must be postmarked with the name of delivering office and actual date of delivery and mailed to its address, without envelope or postage.

ork, N. Y.

October 19th, 1915.

Mr. Frank B. Gay,

Wadsworth Athenaeum,

Hartford, Conn.

My dear Mr. Gay:-

I am sending you, by registered mail, the two medals that you so kindly loaned, and I trust they will reach you in good season and in good shape. I have gotten very fine prints of them.

I am enclosing herewith twenty two cents in stamps, the amount of postage that you paid on the package when you sent the medals to me.

Thanking you very much, and with kindest regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

# REGISTRY RETURN RECEIPT.

Form 1549.

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Date of delivery

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When delivery is made to an agent of the addressee, both addressee's name and agent's signature must appear in this receipt.

(Signature of addressee.)

(Signature of addressee's agent.)

Registered matter, the delivery of which has not been restricted by the sender of the address, is deliverable to any responsible person who customarily receives the ordinary mail of the addressee. (Sec. 936, P. L. and R.)  
When the above receipt has been properly signed, it must be postmarked with the name of delivering office and actual date of delivery and mailed to its address, without envelope or postage.

Mr. Frank B. Gay,

Wadsworth Athenaeum,

Hartford, Conn.

My dear Mr. Gay:-

I am returning the Specially Meritorious Service Medal by registered mail. I have obtained a fine photograph of it, and I am exceedingly obliged to you for the loan. The three medals that you have lent me have helped us out very nicely with our illustrations. I am enclosing herewith the amount of postage that you paid in sending the medal over.

With kindest regards, and hoping to have the pleasure of seeing you sometime in the near future, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

15. New York, N. Y.

from 1567-1568

to 1569

see in person

see or order

15.